

# United States Senate

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June 16, 2004

The Honorable George W. Bush  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As you know by now, there is definitive and unequivocal proof that California consumers and other Western state consumers were literally robbed during the electricity crisis of 2000-01.

We have all seen elaborate descriptions of scams called Get Shorty, Fat Boy, and Death Star--all of which were code names for creating artificial electricity shortages.

In addition, press reports have revealed actual tape recorded conversations showing malice and clear intent to harm California consumers and our nation's economy--all to gain enormous profits for the perpetrators.

I am sorry to say that the agency responsible for protecting consumers from "unjust and unreasonable" electricity prices has failed miserably. It is now 2004 and not one dime of the \$8.9 billion in refunds owed to California has been received. The FERC has also done nothing to order the renegotiation of long-term contracts.

I had an hour-long meeting today with your FERC Chairman, Mr. Pat Wood, who is defensive about his agency's lack of redress and defends his position to challenge California's long efforts to obtain \$8.9 billion of refunds and renegotiation of long-term contracts that Californians agree were negotiated under great duress. It seems as if the Chairman has not been moved to change his views even in light of the latest revelations of thievery by the electricity companies, which went from the top to the bottom.

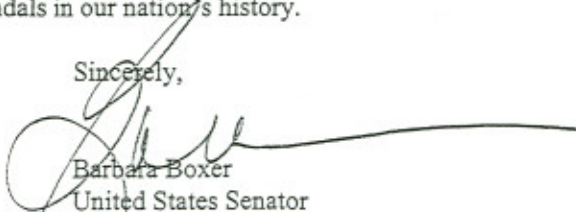
In the name of the millions of Americans who were harmed by these scam artists, I call on you to instruct Chairman Pat Wood to cease and desist his opposition to California's claims, which have unfortunately been stymied in court due to FERC's failure to assist my state.

Specifically, I ask you to instruct FERC to agree that California should receive the entire \$8.9 billion in refunds that the Attorney General is asking for and to settle the court suit on that matter immediately. I also ask that you instruct FERC to settle the California Public Utilities Commission lawsuit demanding renegotiation of long-term contracts.

I further ask that you seek the resignation of any Commissioner who does not agree that it is time to end these time-consuming lawsuits and who fails to see that it is time for the consumers to be made whole.

Mr. President, it is time for clear action from you, and this would be the way to show that you stand with the victims of one of the worst consumer scandals in our nation's history.

Sincerely,



Barbara Boxer  
United States Senator

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